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PTQ4287

RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.4(D)

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ACTION WHA-00

|      |         |         |         |         |        |         |         |
|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|
| INFO | LOG-00  | MFA-00  | NP-00   | AID-00  | CEA-01 | CIAE-00 | CTME-00 |
|      | DINT-00 | DODE-00 | DOTZ-00 | SRPP-00 | DS-00  | EB-00   | EXIM-01 |
|      | E-00    | FAAE-00 | VC-00   | FRB-00  | H-01   | TEDE-00 | INR-00  |
|      | ITC-01  | LAB-01  | L-00    | VCE-00  | AC-01  | NSAE-00 | OES-00  |
|      | OMB-01  | OPIC-01 | PA-00   | PM-00   | PRS-00 | ACE-00  | P-00    |
|      | SP-00   | IRM-00  | SSO-00  | SS-00   | STR-00 | TRSE-00 | USIE-00 |
|      | EPAE-00 | ECA-00  | PMB-00  | DSCC-00 | PRM-00 | DRL-02  | G-00    |
|      | NFAT-00 | SAS-00  | /010W   |         |        |         |         |

-----15B960 110047Z /38

O 102238Z DEC 02  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8925  
INFO DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY  
DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC PRIORITY  
NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
OPEC COLLECTIVE  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 003947

DEPT ALSO FOR DS/IP/WHA, S/S-O/DS, AND DS/DSS/ITA  
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NSC FOR LLORENS  
ENERGY FOR DAVID PHUMPHREY, ANDREA LOCKWOOD, MICHELLE  
BILLIG, AND BART MARCOIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/10/2012  
TAGS: EPET, PGOV, ECON, ASEC, VE  
SUBJECT: ENERGY SECTOR: STRIKE DAY NINE

REF: CARACAS 3931

CLASSIFIED BY: DCM FREDERICK B. COOK, REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D)

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SUMMARY

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1. (C) ON DAY NINE OF THE GENERAL STRIKE, THE ENERGY SITUATION CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE. THE PETROLEOS DE VENEZUELA (PDVSA) OPPOSITION CONTINUES TO CLAIM NEAR COMPLETE ADHERENCE TO THE STRIKE WITH PRODUCTION FACILITIES, REFINERIES, AND SHIPPING ALL INOPERATIVE OR CLOSE TO IT. THERE ARE MULTIPLE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS ABOUT GOV EFFORTS TO ASSUME CONTROL OF PDVSA FACILITIES AS WELL AS A REPORT OF A PDVSA EMPLOYEE ARRESTED AT THE AMUAY PART OF THE PARAGUANA REFINING COMPLEX. ALTHOUGH SOME DELIVERIES HAVE BEEN MADE TO CARACAS GAS STATIONS, THE DOWNSTREAM MANAGER FOR ONE U.S. COMPANY EXPECTS PROBLEMS AT THE END OF THE WEEK. A U.S. COAL COMPANY EXECUTIVE CALLED TO INFORM US THAT AT LEAST TWO VESSELS BOUND FOR U.S. NORTHEAST UTILITIES ARE ANCHORED OUTSIDE LAKE MARACAIBO, UNABLE TO ENTER THE LAKE. END SUMMARY.

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RUNNING ON EMPTY  
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2. (C) ECONOFF DISCUSSED THE NATIONAL GASOLINE SITUATION WITH

[REDACTED] HE REPORTED THAT OF [REDACTED] STATIONS IN VENEZUELA, 46 ARE NOW DRY, ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL. THE SITUATION IN CARACAS IS BETTER THAN THAT IN THE REST OF THE COUNTRY (THERE HAVE BEEN SOME DELIVERIES) BUT [REDACTED] EXPECTS PROBLEMS AT THE END OF THE WEEK IF THE STRIKE DRAGS ON. [REDACTED] NOTED THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE PETROLEUM WHOLESALERS CHAMBER MET THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 9 WITH MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINES VICE MINISTER BERNARDO ALVAREZ WHO REPORTED THAT THERE WERE FOUR DAYS OF STOCKS AT THE DISTRIBUTION PLANTS (THROUGH DECEMBER 12). REFINERIES ARE FULL BUT, WITH SHIPPING STILL PARALYZED, THERE IS NO WAY TO MOVE THE PRODUCT. ALVAREZ NOT SO SUBTLY TOLD THE WHOLESALERS TO TELL THEIR DEALERS TO STAY OPEN.

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[REDACTED] ADVISED THAT THE WHOLESALERS CHAMBER PLANS TO SEND A LETTER TO THE MINISTRY PROTESTING THE LEGALITY OF DECREE 2.172 AUTHORIZING THE MINISTRY TO TAKE TEMPORARY CONTROL OF GAS STATION OPERATIONS AND GASOLINE DISTRIBUTION (SEE REFTTEL).

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GOV TAKING CONTROL?  
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3. (C) THERE ARE NUMEROUS REPORTS ON DECEMBER 10 THAT THE GOV

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AND/OR GOV SUPPORTERS ARE SEIZING PDVSA FACILITIES. ONE  
HOLDS THAT PDVSA OFFICES IN APURE, BARINAS, MATURIN, MONAGAS  
AND TIJUANA HAVE BEEN &INTERVENED.8 ANOTHER REPORT, FROM A

[REDACTED] WHO IS USUALLY VERY WELL INFORMED, IS THAT  
BOLIVARIAN CIRCLE MEMBERS IN PUERTO ORDAZ HAVE SEIZED THE  
PDVSA ANACO NATURAL GAS FACILITY IN ORDER TO FORCE RESUMPTION  
OF THE GAS FOR THE ALUMINUM AND STEEL INDUSTRIES. ANOTHER  
STORY IS THAT GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS PLANNED TO SEIZE THE  
AMUAY REFINERY ON DECEMBER 10 AND RUN IT WITH A CREW OF  
ENGINEERING STUDENTS. A REPRESENTATIVE OF [REDACTED]

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CONFIRMS THAT A PDVSA EMPLOYEE ENGAGED IN SHUTTING DOWN THE  
LAST UNIT OF THE AMUAY REFINERY WAS ARRESTED ON DECEMBER 10.  
HE ADDED THAT THE MILITARY IS INDEED TAKING CONTROL OF ALL  
PDVSA FACILITIES. WHILE WE CANNOT CONFIRM ALL THESE STORIES,  
IT DOES SEEM CLEAR THAT NUMBERS OF NON-PROFESSIONALS ARE NOW  
DABBLING IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PDVSA FACILITIES.

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U.S. ELECTRIC UTILITIES AFFECTED BY THE STRIKE  
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4. (U) A U.S. EXECUTIVE FOR A COAL COMPANY PRODUCING IN ZULIA  
STATE INFORMED US THAT AT LEAST TWO VESSELS AWAITING COAL  
SHIPMENTS FOR THE U.S. ARE ANCHORED AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE

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ACTION WHA-00

|      |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| INFO | LOG-00  | MFA-00  | NP-00   | AID-00  | CEA-01  | CIAE-00 | CTME-00 |
|      | DINT-00 | DODE-00 | DOTE-00 | PERC-00 | SRPP-00 | DS-00   | EB-00   |
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|      | INR-00  | ITC-01  | LAB-01  | L-00    | VCE-00  | AC-01   | NSAE-00 |
|      | OES-00  | OMB-01  | OPIC-01 | PA-00   | PM-00   | PRS-00  | ACE-00  |
|      | P-00    | SP-00   | IRM-00  | SSO-00  | SS-00   | STR-00  | TRSE-00 |
|      | USIE-00 | EPAE-00 | PMB-00  | DSCC-00 | PRM-00  | DRL-02  | G-00    |
|      | NFAT-00 | SAS-00  | /010W   |         |         |         |         |

-----15B966 110047Z /38

O 102238Z DEC 02

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8926

INFO DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY

DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC PRIORITY

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NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
OPEC COLLECTIVE  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 CARACAS 003947

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ENERGY FOR DAVID PHUMPHREY, ANDREA LOCKWOOD, MICHELLE  
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/10/2012  
TAGS: EPET, PGOV, ECON, ASEC, VE  
SUBJECT: ENERGY SECTOR: STRIKE DAY NINE

SHIPPING CHANNEL INTO LAKE MARACAIBO. THE FIRST VESSEL IS  
WAITING FOR A 39,000 TON LOAD BOUND FOR PORTSMOUTH, NEW  
HAMPSHIRE. THE SECOND IS SUPPOSED TO PICK UP 17,000 TONS FOR  
AN ELECTRIC UTILITY IN SOMERSET, MASSACHUSETTS. A THIRD  
VESSEL (DESTINATION UNKNOWN), ALREADY LOADED WITH 32,000 TONS  
OF COAL, IS CURRENTLY ANCHORED INSIDE THE LAKE AND UNABLE TO  
MOVE FOR LACK OF A PILOT. U.S. ELECTRIC UTILITIES MAY YET  
SUFFER SPOT SHORTAGES IF THE STRIKE CONTINUES.

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